

JPMC gets \$27.5 million loan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC) will receive a \$27.5 million seven-year loan from the Arab Company for Petroleum Investments (ACPI), according to an agreement signed by the two sides here on Saturday. The agreement was signed by Dr. Riaziat Al Dabbas, chairman of the board of directors of the JPMC, and Dr. Noureddin Farisi, director general of ACPI. Following the signing ceremony Dr. Dabbas said the agreement enables the JPMC to reschedule debts from the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company (JFIC), which was purchased by the JPMC last year. The new loan carries an interest of 7.5 per cent while the loans given earlier to the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company by the ACPI carried interest at the rate of 8.5 to 12.5 per cent.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by Jordan Times Foundation
جريدة عن المؤسسة المصطفية الاردنية «الرأي»

Volume 12 Number 3459

AMMAN, SUNDAY APRIL 26, 1987, SHABAN 28, 1407

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Crown Prince visits army unit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday visited units of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division and was briefed on their duty and training programmes. The Crown Prince was accompanied on the tour by the assistant to the army chief of staff for manpower and the commander of the division.

Chinese ambassador reaffirms stand

AMMAN (Petra) — Chinese Ambassador to Jordan Chang Jin said Saturday China supports the holding of an international peace conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices with the participation of all parties concerned and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. Mr. Chang, who was speaking at the World Affairs Council, said that China strongly opposed Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy. China will not establish any relation with Israel unless the Jewish state changes its expansionist and aggressive policy, said the ambassador. Mr. Chang also reviewed China's policy vis-a-vis international issues such as disarmament, world peace as well as China's relations with the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

EC envoys mark anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — The ambassadors of the member states of the 12-nation European Community (EC) held a reception here Saturday evening on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome under which the community was set up. The reception was attended by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Foreign Minister Taher Masi and a number of senior Jordanian officials and dignitaries, as well as diplomats (See page 4 for Jacques Delors' message on the occasion of the anniversary).

Martens leaves

AQABA (J.T.) — Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens left Aqaba Saturday for Brussels at the end of a private visit to Jordan. Mr. Martens, who was accompanied by his wife, met with a number of senior Jordanian officials during his stay and visited a number of touristic sites in the country.

Iraqi leader gets Soviet message

BAGHDAD (R) — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky, who is canvassing proposals for ending the Iran-Iraq war, held talks on Saturday with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. It said Mr. Petrovsky conferred with President Hussein on developments in the region and "the continuation of the Iranian aggression on Iraq and Tehran's continuous threats against security and stability in the Gulf region." The agency added that Mr. Petrovsky, who is on a four-day visit to Iraq, conveyed a verbal message from Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev to President Hussein. He earlier met other officials, including Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz (See page 2).

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PNC ends session after averting collapse of new-found unity

By Lamia K. Andoni in Algiers

THE Palestine National Council (PNC) ended its 18th session here on Saturday after averting what could have been a disasterous end for the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) drive for reconciliation and reunification.

Resolutions read out at the closing session spelled out the future policies of the PLO, including relations with Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon, and reemphasised the movement's endorsement of an international conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices with the participation of all parties concerned and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. Mr. Chang, who was speaking at the World Affairs Council, said that China strongly opposed Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy. China will not establish any relation with Israel unless the Jewish state changes its expansionist and aggressive policy, said the ambassador. Mr. Chang also reviewed China's policy vis-a-vis international issues such as disarmament, world peace as well as China's relations with the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

On Syria, a resolution said the PLO "continued to pursue efforts to better relations between the PLO leadership and the Syrian government."

On Lebanon, the PNC said the Palestinians living in refugee camps there were entitled to "defend themselves against attacks" and called for reorganized relations with the various Lebanese factions with special emphasis on "nationalist and progressive movements."

The PNC deplored the con-

tinued Iran-Iraq war and condemned Iran's continued occupation of parts of Iraqi territory. It called for a negotiated solution to the conflict.

Finally, on Egypt, the PNC adopted a resolution which was the focus of the last-minute threat to the successful conclusion of the council. The resolution said the PLO's relations with Egypt be governed by decisions adopted by the 16th session of the PNC and Arab summit resolutions. It endorsed contacts between the PLO and "nationalist and progressive forces" in Egypt and the Egyptian masses.

The resolution was the focus of an escalation of a dispute between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and hardline PLO factional leaders George Habash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and Nafez Hawatmeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

The dispute, which was supposed to have been settled with the endorsement of the resolution by the PNC Political Committee at dawn Saturday before presentation to the PNC later in the day, was referred to the PNC later in the day.

(Continued on page 3)

Palestinians vow to keep up anti-Israel attacks

AIN AL HILWEH, Lebanon (R) — Palestinian leaders have vowed to keep up cross-border attacks on Israel regardless of Israeli threats and air strikes.

"It is a continuous war with the Israelis. Of course we plan more cross-border attacks," Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Zeid Wehbe told Reuters Friday night.

Commandos were on the alert on Friday after Thursday's Israeli air raid which wounded 16 people, but otherwise life was much as moral with honking cars and refugees crowding the dusty tracks of the big Ain Al Hilweh camp.

Nine Israeli air raids on Lebanon this year have been targeted on Ain Al Hilweh and nearby Palestinian positions east of Sidon.

"The more the Israelis escalate their actions against us, the more alert we become," Mr. Wehbe said.

"This enemy only understands force," he added.

Abu Yasser, a senior commander of Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fatah group, toured positions and visited a wounded guerrilla.

"All of our camps are training, and nearly everyone is being armed," Abu Yasser said.

Abu Yasser said he believed leaflets dropped by Israeli planes in South Lebanon on Thursday would not turn the population against guerrilla attacks with threats of "iron fist" reprisals.

"They don't scare people any more. All the southerners and Palestinians know the limit of Israel's capabilities now and they will all fight them again if they think of returning," Abu Yasser said.

Nevertheless, witnesses said that since the Israeli air raids escalated, many Lebanese civilians living near Ain Al Hilweh had packed and left to stay with relatives and friends in the relative safety of Sidon.

Inside the camp, women, children and guerrillas carried on their everyday life, shopping and visiting.

Strike freezes Lebanon for third day running

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A general strike to protest soaring prices paralysed Lebanon for a third day on Saturday as labour unions forced the closure of the few businesses that did not strike.

Members of the 250,000-strong General Confederation of Labour (GCL) toured Beirut and Lebanese cities and urged the United Nations to demand that all pertinent United Nations resolutions should govern the conference.

On relations with Jordan, one of the resolutions said the PLO was determined to maintain "the unique character" of Palestinian-

page, threatened Friday night to call a strike to last up to one month "if officials continue to disregard their duties."

"We insisted on this strike to press demands which concern all citizens and not just the labour force," he said.

The decision to prolong the protest for a third day was taken despite Thursday's meeting of rival Christian and Muslim cabinet ministers, the first for seven months.

"The ministerial meeting did not produce the tangible results anticipated," Mr. Bishara said.

Nine members of the "national unity" government attended the session. Walid Jumblatt, minister of transport, public works and tourism, was not there.

A communiqué said they had agreed to meet again next week, review measures to alleviate economic hardships caused by the 12-year-old civil war and to reassess state authority.

However, ministers soon resumed wrangling, with Christian Finance Minister Camille Chamoun saying the communiqué was merely an agenda for discussion and Sunni Muslim Prime Minister Rashid Karameh saying it outlined official decisions.

Leftist group claims Athens bomb attack

ATHENS (Agencies) — A left-wing group claimed responsibility on Saturday for a bomb attack on a bus carrying American military personnel.

The November 17 organisation said it exploded the remote-control bomb, which wounded 18 people, to protest the presence of U.S. bases in Greece and threatened to strike again.

The group made the claim in a four-page proclamation published in the left-wing Athens daily Eleftheros.

"We hit the Americans because their bases constitute an occupation force in our country... we shall hit them without warning if they're high or middle-ranking base personnel," the proclamation said.

November 17 has claimed responsibility for 11 political assassinations since 1975, including the U.S. central intelligence agency station chief in Athens and a U.S. navy officer. None of the killings has been solved.

The group is named for the date a 1973 student rebellion was crushed by the 1967-74 military dictatorship.

The last bombing in Greece against the U.S. military was February 1985 attack at a sub-

urban bar. Sixty-eight Americans were injured.

Twelve U.S. military personnel, four civilians and two Greeks were injured in Friday's blast on a main boulevard near the capital's fruit and vegetable market.

A police spokesman said witnesses saw two men in blue workers' overalls running towards a van after the blast. The stolen van was later found abandoned near a football field.

The Greek government said after Friday's attack that "such actions serve only the interests of those who conspire against social peace and democracy in our country."

The United States also denounced the explosion and said U.S. officials were helping with investigations.

November 17 on Saturday accused Washington of encouraging Turkish sovereignty claims in the Aegean, where a row with Greece over oil exploration rights brought Ankara and Athens to the brink of war last month.

The proclamation also attacked Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, accusing him of backtracking on pledges to close down U.S. military bases in Greece.

Kuwait meeting focuses on investments in Jordan after emir's pledge of total support

KUWAIT (Petra) — A conference on promoting investments in Jordan opened in Kuwait on Saturday and the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, voiced his country's total support of promoting in Kuwait the idea of investments in Jordan.

The emir pledged his government would translate the conference's resolutions and ideas into action for Kuwait's support of the conference.

Sheikh Jaber was speaking at a meeting with Dr. Rajai Muasher,

Dr. Muasher met in Kuwait later with Sheikh Saad Al Abd-

lah Al Sabah, heir-apparent of Kuwait and the country's prime minister, who arrived in Kuwait Friday evening for the conference which opened Saturday.

Dr. Muasher conveyed to the emir greetings from His Majesty King Hussein, the Jordanian government and people, and expressed appreciation for Kuwait's support for the conference.

Mr. Khurafi later opened the

Sheikh Saad greetings from Prime Minister Ziad Rifai and reviewed with him economic cooperation between Jordan and Kuwait in the light of a visit to Kuwait last October by Mr. Rifai. Dr. Odeh and Jordan's ambassador to Kuwait as well as Mr. Jassem Al Khurafi, Kuwait's minister of finance, attended the meeting.

Mr. Khurafi later opened the

(Continued on page 5)

2 Israelis injured in Gaza firebombing

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Two Israelis were injured Saturday when assailants threw a firebomb at their car in the main shopping street of the Israeli-occupied Gaza City, the Israeli military said.

An Israeli spokesman said that in a second incident in Gaza City, another Israeli car was hit by a firebomb and burned. The passengers safely escaped from the burning car, he said.

The spokesman said the two wounded, a father and his son, had suffered light injuries and were transferred to hospital.

Israel Radio described the two as residents of Dimona, a town in the Negev desert near Beersheba.

A Palestinian source who demanded anonymity told AP the Israeli troops imposed a curfew on Gaza City's main shopping street and made several arrests. The source said the two incidents occurred within ten minutes.

Israelis often visit the Arab market and shops in the occupied city. Last year, two Jewish shopkeepers were stabbed to death in Gaza City.

On Wednesday, a bomb planted in the centre of a city street was safely dismantled.

In the West Bank, a Jewish settler and three Palestinians were injured during a clash at the entrance to a Jewish settlement, near the town of Qalqilya.

An army spokesman said a

watchman opened fire when se 1 al local Palestinians ap ached the settlement gates. Other armed settlers ran to the scene and a fight started in which three Arabs and one of the settlers were injured.

Following the incident, the Israeli army clamped a curfew on the neighbouring village of Kfar Al Akik. The spokesman said.

He did not know what had caused the scuffle.

Tension between Jewish settlers and Arabs in the territories has soared since a settler was killed and four others injured in a petrol bomb attack two weeks ago.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has vowed to crack

down on any unrest and warned Palestinian nationalists that violence would lessen chances of a political solution for the territories.

Mr. Rabin also warned Jewish settlers that in choosing to live in the West Bank they must realize that there were always dangers involved.

Some 50 Jewish settlers near Hebron clashed Friday night with Israeli troops at the town's Cave of the Patriarchs, reports said.

The incident occurred at a time when the site was closed to Jewish prayer. The settlers forced their way past soldiers guarding the entrance but were expelled when more troops arrived, reports said.

The incident was reported in the West Bank, a Jewish newspaper.

The Gulf-based executives said the Megapoint was hit at 00:15 a.m. Saturday (20:15 GMT Friday) and sustained minor damage.

They said the Megapoint was last challenged by an Iranian gunboat about 15 minutes before the gunship struck. "The Megapoint called on American navy ships for help but did not get it," one of the executives said.

His comments, reported by the official news agency TASS, were made during talks with President Hafez Al Assad of Syria and at a banquet in Mr. Assad's honour Friday night.

The Soviet proposals are being discussed by NATO leaders, some of whom have expressed concern that the removal of short-range missiles with a range of 300-1,000 kilometres could affect their "flexible defence" capability.

Moscow and Washington have also agreed in principle to remove all medium-range missiles, with a range of 1,000-5,000 kilometres, from Europe and limit the number of such warheads to 100 elsewhere.

The United States prefers dealing with both medium and short-range rockets in one treaty.

Some of the NATO allies, and Bernard Rogers, the supreme allied commander, would like the United States to deploy missiles in the 500 to 1,000 kilometre range in Western Europe.

But if the Soviets proposed eliminating all their shorter-range missiles, the Western alliance might forgo that option.

In the medium-range category the two sides have a tentative understanding to retain only 100 warheads each.

Assad ends Soviet visit after intense Mideast talks

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad left the Soviet Union on Saturday after a visit marked by differences about the way to achieve Middle East peace.

The official TASS news agency said Mr. Assad was seen off at a Kremlin ceremony by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The two met briefly after Mr. Assad's arrival on Thursday and had lengthy talks followed by a Kremlin banquet on Friday.

The official TASS news agency said Mr. Assad said Syria was seeking Arab solidarity on the basis of opposition to the Camp David course — a reference to Egypt's separate 1979 accord with Israel.

Mr. Assad said Syria was seeking Arab solidarity in the Camp David course — a reference to Egypt's separate 1979 accord with Israel. On the subject of an international peace conference, which Moscow strongly supports, Mr. Assad said Syria backed the idea if its aim was to end Israeli occupation of land it had held since the 1967 Middle East war.

Mr. Gorbachev condemned Israel's policies of "force and annexation" and accused Israeli leaders of using "state terror" in efforts to build greater security.

Investigators get major clue to Iran-contra money trail

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Congressional investigators have obtained records which can help them trail where millions of dollars involved in the Iran arms deal were raised and spent, a Senate committee spokesman has said.

The records of transactions through secret Swiss bank accounts were turned over in Paris on Monday to two committee members by Iranian-American businessman Alfred Hakim, the spokesman said.

The House of Representatives and Senate Investigating Committees open hearings on May 5 into the affair involving the sale of U.S. arms to Iran in hope of winning freedom for American hostages held in Lebanon, and the subsequent diversion of profits from the deals to Nicaraguan "contra" rebels.

The committee has also been promised excerpts next week from President Reagan's personal diary relating to the Iran scandal which has rocked his administration.

The president said Friday there was nothing for him to be embarrassed about when the excerpts are made public.

The committee spokesman Friday night refused specific details about the money trail disclosed in the Swiss bank records.

However, a U.S. television news programme said the records indicate \$25 to \$30 million may have been pocketed by middlemen and never reached the contras.

The programme said Hakim's records show \$2.5 to \$3 million went to Hakim and Iranian arms dealer Manucher Ghorbanifar as normal profit for the various deals.

Hakim also told investigators another \$7 million remained in Swiss accounts to be used to finance future arms deals with Iran, the report said.

He confirmed, as Secretary of State George Shultz reported earlier, that \$10 million given by the Sultan of Brunei to aid the contras has simply disappeared from a Swiss account.

Investigators also believe Hakim and his partner, former U.S. Maj.-Gen. Richard Secord, made a large profit by mark-ups on arms they sold the contras which were paid for by \$33 million donated by the Saudi royal family, the programme said.

Iran protests at Australian TV programme

CANBERRA (R) — Iran has made an official protest to Australia about a sketch on a satirical television programme which it claims defamed Islam and Iranian values.

The Australian ambassador in Tehran was summoned to the Iranian Foreign Ministry Friday and handed a note protesting at last Monday's programme, "the Dingo Principle," screened nationally by the government-run ABC Network.

The official Iranian News Agency (IRNA) said the ambassador was told that "acts which harm the sentiments of the Iranian nation will evoke a strong and suitable response," the domestic Australian News Agency said.

In a similar incident in February, Iran expelled two West German diplomats after a satirical sketch, showing Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini re-

labeled of what happened" instead of being detached and informed as the Tower Commission portrayed him earlier this year after its investigation of the Iran-contra affair.

The Senator said "there are some passages in there that may cause some embarrassment and some injury to persons. ... For the president, it will be a mixed bag."

He said the embarrassment would be because "remarks are made about people and recollections of certain dealings with people ... which they thought were off the record."

Asked if the diaries contained anything indicating he knew about any diversion of money to the contras, Mr. Reagan said, "no, because I didn't and still don't. I'm still waiting to find out."

President spokesman Martin Fitzwater said that under an agreement with Congress, White House Counsel A.B. Culverhouse reviewed all of Mr. Reagan's diary entries from Jan. 1, 1984 until Dec. 19, 1986 and culled out all Iran-contra references.

All of the material now is ready for inspection, he said, and leaders of the congressional committees investigating the affair may get their first look next week.

Reagan pays tribute to U.S.-Morocco peace treaty

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Human Rights Association Chairman Nevzat Helvaci declared Saturday that prison conditions in Turkey fail to meet internationally accepted minimum standards.

He said in a statement that prisons were not fit for human habitation and urged the authorities to apply the standards laid down by the United Nations in 1955.

The conditions set minimum standards on hygiene, health ser-

vices, clothing, food and inmates' rights to complain.

A 60-page report issued with the statement listed acceptable minimum conditions in prisons and printed letters and newspaper and magazine reports on torture or maltreatment of detainees saying conditions were far below the required levels.

The letters in the report complained of torture, maltreatment by prison officials and filthy surroundings.

Mr. Helvaci said the associa-

tions would closely follow whether the standards are applied in prisons in future.

The Human Rights Association, set up last year, complained earlier this year that many prisoners were subjected to torture. Mr. Helvaci, a lawyer, said at least 149 people had died in detention since 1980, many from torture.

The government denies that torture is systematic and says that individual cases are always brought before the courts.

Turkish rights leader criticises prison conditions

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Queen Alia International Airport

Djibouti president gets vote of confidence

DJIBOUTI (AP) — President Hassan Gouled Aptidon, the sole presidential candidate, won a vote of confidence from 90 per cent of the voters, election officials said Saturday.

Critics of the government had encouraged voters in Friday's presidential and parliamentary elections to boycott the event or deface their ballots to protest the one-party system.

Officials said 619 of the 91,191 presidential ballots cast were defaced. For the National Assembly, 89,329 ballots were cast and 1,280 were defaced.

A list of 65 candidates nominated by Mr. Hassan Gouled's Popular Rally for Progress party received the backing of 87 per cent of the voters.

Voters could only indicate "yes" or "no" to a list of unopposed candidates. Election officials said Mr. Hassan Gouled, who has led this East African nation since its independence from France in 1977, was approved on 90 per cent of the valid ballots.

The six were among seven Arabs and a Kenyan arrested on Jan. 26. The six were accused of overstaying visas and violating an immigration law that bars aliens from taking part in "activities promoting world Communism."

Officials ordered extra security because of a March 18 bomb blast at a cafe that killed 11 people — five Frenchmen, three West Germans and three Djiboutians.

It was the second presidential elections since independence. Djibouti, with 500,000 people, has been a one-party state since 1982.

A high-ranking government official, who asked not to be identified by name, said the government believed the attack was aimed at the French, who were colonial rulers until 1977 and still have a strong presence. There are 9,000 Frenchmen, nearly half of them military personnel, living in Djibouti.

The two committees set up to investigate the affair haven't demanded direct testimony, copies of financial records, or answers to detailed questions about Israeli involvement in the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran, according to lawmakers and law enforcement officials.

As a result, according to these sources, the congressional hearings beginning next month won't provide substantial new information about the activities of Israeli

intelligence agencies.

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Israel is expected to provide a chronological summary of its version of the financial transactions involving the arms sales in the next few days, according to Israeli officials. But since the report isn't expected to include

Petrovsky starts talks in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky started talks with Iraqi officials on Moscow's ideas for ending the Gulf war, diplomats said.

They said Petrovsky, who arrived here Friday night on a four-day official visit, saw Iraq's Foreign Minister Under-Secretary Wissam Al-Zahawi. He was expected later to confer with Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz and other officials and to see President Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Petrovsky arrived in Iraq's southern city of Basra Saturday and deplored the effects of Iranian artillery attacks on residential areas. He was quoted as saying "the issue of ending the war by peaceful means has become a must."

Basra Governor Anwar Saeed told Mr. Petrovsky of the city's "heroic steadfastness in deterring repeated Iranian aggression," the agency reported.

This was a reference to Iranian shelling of the city, Iraq's second-largest, during successive Iranian

offensives east of Basra since Jan. 9.

INA said Mr. Petrovsky expressed regret over the shelling. The "Soviet Union is a political ally and a major arms supplier to Iraq."

In Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Muscat, Mr. Petrovsky had brought up with officials a Soviet proposal to convene a multi-party conference to discuss means of protecting commercial shipping.

Vessels in the Gulf have been the targets of attacks by Iran and Iraq.

Mr. Petrovsky said in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday that the superpowers were to take "joint steps" for ending the Gulf war within the framework of the United Nations. He did not elaborate.

U.S. facilitates deportation proceedings of 6 held for violating immigration law

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The government decided to speed up deportation proceedings against six of eight aliens arrested in January by dropping charges that they were affiliated with a Marxist-Palestinian group, a federal attorney said.

The six were among seven Arabs and a Kenyan arrested on Jan. 26. The six were accused of overstaying visas and violating an immigration law that bars aliens from taking part in "activities promoting world Communism."

William Odenrancz, of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, said Thursday that the charges were dropped as "an economy of effort" because simple immigration violations would be proven easily.

"The person was admitted, the time has expired, they have not left," he said.

The other two aliens, Khader Musa Hamide, 33, and Michel Ibrahim Nasif Shehadeh, 30, still face charges for promoting Communism. Both are legal residents and do not face the immigration violation charges.

The six affected by the government's action are Ajad Khaled Barakat, 26; Naim Nadim Sharif, 28; Bashir Hasam Amer, 24; Julie Nyanguyu Mingai, 29, the Kenya-born wife Hamide; Ay-

man Mustafa Obeid, 24, and his brother, Amjad Mustafa Obeid, 23.

Authorities said the eight were affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). All eight have denied affiliation with the PFLP.

The change in the government's position was announced at a meeting between attorneys for the eight aliens and U.S. Immigration officials.

The eight were arrested at southern California residences and then imprisoned for more than two weeks. They were released after a Feb. 17 bond hearing.

Congress not to delve deeply into

Israeli role in Iran-contra scandal

WASHINGTON — Hampered by a lack of cooperation and unwilling to buck strong pro-Israeli sentiment on Capitol Hill, House and Senate investigating committees don't intend to delve deeply into Israel's role in the Iran-contra scandal.

Critics — including a number of criminal investigators working for independent counsel Lawrence Walsh — fault some leaders of the House and Senate select committees for failing to aggressively demand more information and speedier responses from Tel Aviv. These critics contend that Congress, because it controls the flow of U.S. aid to Tel Aviv, has a much better chance than Mr. Walsh does to pin down the Israeli role.

Israel is expected to provide a chronological summary of its version of the financial transactions involving the arms sales in the next few days, according to Israeli officials. — The Wall Street Journal

Belgium to reopen mission in west Beirut

BÉRÈUT, Lebanon (AP) — The Belgian embassy will resume limited consular services in west Beirut, two years after closing its diplomatic mission in the capital's Muslim sector, newspapers reported Saturday.

An advertisement published by Beirut's newspapers, including the leading *Al Nahar* and *As Safir*, said the Belgian consulate in west Beirut would render services on Tuesday and Thursday every week.

Its reopening would bring to six the number of Western diplomatic missions that reactivated limited services in west Beirut after Syria deployed 7,500 troops in the city's mainly Muslim half on Feb. 22.

The countries with limited diplomatic representation, mainly on the consular level, in west Beirut are Italy, France, Spain, Switzerland, and Holland.

All Western diplomatic missions, with the exception of Greece, fled west Beirut in the last two years following a spate of attacks by Shi'ite Muslim extremists against foreigners and diplomats.

Belgium moved its embassy two years ago from Verdun Street in west Beirut to the relative safety of the Christian eastern sector of the capital.

The early stages of the Reagan administration's secret Iran initiative, Israel acted as a conduit for U.S. arms sales to Iran. Investigators believe Israeli officials and private arms dealers could supply the congressional panels with details on how Iran came to pay inflated prices for U.S. arms and where the extra proceeds went — including whether payoff were made to Iranian officials — The Wall Street Journal

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) flights (Terminal 1)

11:15 Agaba (RJ)
18:25 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
18:25 Jeddah (RJ)
18:25 Kuwait (KU)
18:25 Dubai (DXB)
18:25 Bahrain (BAH)
18:25 Bagdad (IA)
20:00 Sana (YI)

PRAYER TIMES

8:45 Fajr
05:52 (Sunday) Dhuhr
12:34 Asr
16:12 Magrib
19:45 Isha

MONEY EXCHANGE

Saturday rates
Local self-buy rates in fils

Belgian franc 87.71
Dutch guilder 126.10
French franc 55.36
Italian lire 25.54
Japanese yen (for 100) 235.41
Swiss franc 52.41
U.S. dollar 54.65
U.K. sterling pound 55.13
U.S. dollar 327.91
German mark 183.87

Other flights (Terminal 2)

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Home news

Fayez back from Iraq after meeting Hussein

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez returned to Amman on Saturday at the end of a four-day visit to Iraq where he held meetings with Dr. Sa'doun Hamad, speaker of the Iraqi National Council.

Mr. Fayez was also received by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein with whom he reviewed developments in the Gulf war and Arab affairs.

Mr. Fayez described his meetings with Iraqi leaders as "fruitful."

Dajani opens symposium for provincial governors

AMMAN (Petra) — A symposium on the role and duties of provincial governors in the country was opened in Amman on Saturday by Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani who underlined the importance of decentralisation to national development.

Mr. Dajani told the audience of governors gathered at the Royal Cultural Centre that provincial governors can provide a contribution to development because of their close contact with local communities and local problems. The main target of local government, he said, should be the security and safety of local inhabitants, an essential element for the prosperity of any society.

Jordanian legislation has granted provincial rulers legal authority to supervise the implementation of rules and regulations, and safeguard the public interest, the minister pointed out. He said that provincial governors could oversee the implementation of projects included in the five-year national development plan, and can also promote the work of the Ministry of Interior through their initiatives.

In the first working session, attended by the ministry's Under Secretary Ahmad Aqileh, a working paper on the powers given to provincial governors was reviewed. The opening session was attended by Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh and several under secretaries of different ministries.

UAE agriculture minister arrives on 4-day visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sa'id Mohammad Al Ruqban arrived here Saturday at the head of a seven-member delegation on a four-day official visit to Jordan. In an arrival statement Mr. Ruqban said that he was carrying the greetings and best wishes of UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan to His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian people. He said that he and Minister of Agriculture Mar-

wan Al Hmoud would discuss existing relations between Jordan and the UAE and the possibility of exchanging experiences in the fields of fisheries and agricultural research as well as means of further promoting bilateral cooperation in the agricultural sector.

The UAE minister will also acquaint himself with the agricultural projects being carried out in Jordan and with the Jordanian experience in agricultural development. The visit is at the invitation of Mr. Hmoud.

PNC ends session

(Continued from page 1)

day, was sparked by a demand by Mr. Arafat that it be amended before final endorsement.

Informed sources said the sought-for amendments meant the removal of the stipulation that relations with Egypt be governed under resolutions adopted by the 16th session of the PNC as well as Arab summit resolutions.

These resolutions called for isolation of Egypt as long as Cairo followed the 1979 separate peace treaty with Israel and said relations with Egypt be contingent on the Cairo government distancing itself from the treaty.

Another amendment sought by Mr. Arafat was a tribute to the Egyptian army and people for their struggle against Israel. This amendment was incorporated into the final resolution.

Earlier, the PFLP and DFLP threatened to quit the PNC if the sought-for amendments were incorporated.

Informed sources said it was after intense Algerian and Soviet mediation that the compromise was reached. Algerian party leader Mohammad Sherif Massadiyah held a closed meeting with Mr. Arafat late Saturday evening. The meeting was followed by another attended by the Soviet ambassador to Algeria.

The compromise saved the council session, described as the "PLO reunification session" after years of bitter feuds and infighting, from total failure.

The PNC session also endorsed a series of organisational reforms which heralded strict limitations over the powers of the PLO chairman.

The council session was expected to conclude here on Saturday but the closing session was delayed because of the dispute over Egypt which rose to the surface after Mr. Arafat insisted on having a free hand in maintaining relations with Cairo, contrary to an earlier agreement with the PFLP and DFLP.

Mr. Arafat's new stand was the result of a message he received earlier in the day from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in protest against the resolution that was endorsed by the PNC on Saturday. The resolution, which was thrashed out after hours of lengthy deliberations of the political committee of the PNC, stipulated that the issue of relations with Egypt would be left to the new executive committee of the PLO which was expected to be named at the concluding session of the council.

The resolution was seen as a compromise formula between the hardline stands of George Habash of the PFLP and Naseer Hawatmeh of the DFLP and Mr. Arafat's insistence that the door

be kept open for relations with Egypt. While the PLO chairman hoped that it would not provoke a harsh Egyptian reaction, Dr. Habash and Mr. Hawatmeh appeared to be satisfied that the new executive committee would be able to control the actions of Mr. Arafat.

The simmering dispute over Egypt was a key issue ever since the PNC opened its 18th session here on Monday, and it appeared early Saturday that the compromise formula had managed to settle the row. Journalists were awaiting the final communiqué of the PNC session Saturday evening, but the whole situation changed when Mr. Arafat, in a meeting of the political committee, asked for the amendments to the compromise resolution.

The main factor that brought about a shift in Mr. Arafat's stand from early Saturday was Mr. Mubarak's message, which, according to sources, indicated that Egypt was "on the verge of closing down PLO offices in its territory."

An Egyptian delegation which was attending the PNC session as observers left Algiers on Saturday, reports said. An Egyptian Foreign Ministry official was quoted as saying in Cairo that the delegation was called back in protest against what it described as "anti-Egyptian debate" going on in the PNC.

Informed sources said Mr. Mubarak's message to Mr. Arafat also accused the PLO of "trying to drive a wedge between the Egyptian government and its people." Apparently, the stand by the hardline factions here that the PLO could continue contacts with "progressive and nationalist forces in Egypt and the Egyptian masses" sparked this particular reference in the message.

Earlier, other sources said Mr. Arafat had suggested the issue of relations with Egypt be put to an open vote at the PNC session, but the hardline factions as well as some PLO leaders opposed such a move.

Observers noted that Mr. Arafat could not turn down Algerian requests to ensure the unity of the PLO, because rejecting Algerian mediation would mean that the PLO chairman was shouldering the sole responsibility for the failure of the council session.

This would also discredit Mr. Arafat in Soviet eyes, since Moscow was one of the driving forces behind the PNC's "reunification session," the observers said.

At the same time, the PFLP and DFLP could also not afford to be seen as having caused the PNC failure since both factions enjoy wide Soviet support.

Mr. Arafat was expected to travel to Moscow immediately after the conclusion of the PNC.

Prince Hassan graduates first batch of People's Army cadets from Yarmouk

IRBID (Petra) — The first batch of Yarmouk University student recruits in the People's Army graduated here Saturday in a ceremony held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The ceremony, held at Yarmouk University, was addressed by Prince Hassan who conveyed to the 1,838 recruits greetings from His Majesty King Hussein and praised the young men's patriotism.

Prince Hassan urged the graduates to use their training to assist the medical corps of the armed forces in providing first aid, civil defence, and nursing operations.

The People's Army commander made a speech at the outset of the graduation ceremony in which he praised King Hussein's decision to form the People's Army so that all members of the public could take part in the defence of the nation and in the process of regaining Arab land.

The ceremony included a display of the graduates' skills in dismantling and reassembling various light arms, fire-fighting exercises, hand-to-hand combat and target shooting.

Towards the end of the ceremony, Prince Hassan distributed awards to the graduates and presented the People's Army shield to Dr. Mohammad Hamdan, Yarmouk University president, and the university shield to the commander of the People's Army. The training course started at the beginning of the second university term in January 1987.

Prince Mohammad graduates special cadets

Also Saturday His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein,



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday graduates the first batch of People's Army cadets from Yarmouk University (Petra photo)



His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Saturday presents certificates to a group of special forces trainees who completed training at the Public Security Department (Petra photo)

the training course and to the trainers.

The ceremony was attended by Public Security Department (PSD) Director Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al Majali, the commander of the special police forces as well as high ranking public security and armed forces officers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Decree okays envoys' appointments

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving a Cabinet decision appointing Mr. Awwad Al Khatib as Jordan's non-residential ambassador to Cyprus and Mr. Mohammad Afanah as Jordan's ambassador to Sudan. Another Royal Decree was issued approving the appointment of Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib as acting finance minister during the absence of Finance Minister Hanna Odeh outside the country on an official mission.

Tunisian foreign minister due today

AMMAN (Petra) — Tunisian Foreign Minister Al Hadi Al Mabrouk is due here today on a two-day visit to Jordan and to hold talks with senior Jordanian government officials, including Foreign Minister Taber Al Masri. The talks are expected to cover Arab affairs and cooperation between Jordan and Tunisia. Mr. Mabrouk is also scheduled to tour a number of tourist and archaeological sites in the Kingdom.

Jordan ships more cement to Egypt

AQABA (Petra) — A cargo ship with 22,000 tonnes of Jordanian cement left Aqaba for Egypt on Friday. The shipment is part of a bilateral agreement for exporting one million tonnes of Jordanian cement to Egypt. With the new shipment Jordan has to date exported 209,000 tonnes of cement to Egypt in accordance with the agreement.

Man dies after being kicked by horse

AMMAN (I.T.) — A 38-year-old Egyptian was killed on Thursday after being kicked in the chest by a mare while working on a farm near the Awajan area of Zarqa Governorate, according to a report in the local Arabic daily newspaper Sawt Al Shaab. In Amman a 19-year-old man tried to commit suicide by swallowing a razor blade but he failed and sustained injuries in the mouth and throat. An attempted murder occurred on Friday in Amman when a 21-year-old man was shot several times and injured in the foot. The man was taken to hospital and the police started investigations into the incident.

University marks nursing day

IRBID (Petra) — The University of Science and Technology's nursing faculty Saturday held a nursing day during which several working papers on the nursing profession and the work of nurses were discussed. The papers also covered hospital care for patients and the administration of medicine and other related topics. Among the main speakers was Dr. Fayed Khasawneh, dean of the Faculty of Nursing, who said that the observance of nursing day reflects the university's keenness on projecting the humanitarian role of nurses and their essential service to community.

Education team back from Kuwait

AMMAN (Petra) — A Ministry of Education delegation returned to Amman from Kuwait Saturday after a week-long visit at the invitation of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Education. During the visit, the delegation held several meetings with senior officials at the Kuwaiti Ministry of Education to discuss educational issues which concern the two countries, especially in the field of educational studies and researches.

GUVS starts study on voluntary work

AMMAN (Petra) — The social studies and research centre at the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Saturday started a study on the economics of social and voluntary work in Jordan and its impact on the national economy. The study is aimed at examining the economic aspect of social work with view to modernising and upgrading the work of GUVS. The study will deal with economics, general spending, efficiency and geographical distribution of social and voluntary work in the country. The study will be confined to models and samples taken from 60 charitable societies in the East and West Banks of Jordan.

Meeting to discuss joint Arab industries

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting on coordination between Arab organisations and joint Arab companies to promote joint industrial projects will open here Monday at the Arab Mining Company. The two-day meeting will discuss a working paper by the Arab Industrial Development Organisation (AIDO) on a proposed plan for coordination between Arab organisations and joint Arab companies in promoting industrial projects. Participants will also discuss an AIDO trend to transfer national projects into joint Arab projects.

Ministry-sponsored meeting approves health scheme for private sector employees

Insurance fund to cover a million beneficiaries

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A meeting held on Saturday approved in principle Jordan's proposed health insurance fund which covers the private sector's employees and families. Some participants, however, voiced reservations over the project's financial terms.

If properly executed, the fund is designed to cover one million beneficiaries — private sector employees and their families — eventually leading to a comprehensive health insurance scheme for all citizens. This fund takes into consideration the existing services offered to members and families of the civil and military services.

Studies conducted by various bodies from the private and public sector have estimated the scheme's operational cost per annum at JD 60 million. The funding is to come from employees, employers, the Health Ministry and the Social Security Corporation (SSC).

Saturday's assembly, grouping officials and representatives from more than 35 leading businesses, unions, federations and associations, agreed to the concept of a health insurance fund, but remained strongly opposed to the financing scheme. The conferees' ideas reflected similar themes voiced by various columns and press reports which appeared in Jordan's newspapers recently.

Most of the companies have voiced their concern that such a fund will clash with the duties of the SSC which is supposed to cover the employees' health insurance in accordance with its founding charter. However, SSC officials have made it clear that their organisation was not ready to shoulder responsibilities which are not among its present priorities, which are restricted to insurance for occupational injuries and for old age, disability or death.

Addressing a meeting of directors of police units gathered to discuss traffic problems in the Kingdom, Lt.-Gen. Majali said that an agreement has been reached with Radio Jordan to present daily programmes to inform motorists of the condition of roads, to instruct them on where traffic congestion is located. The meeting was attended by senior PSD officers.

Arab union discusses means to support contracting sector

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Contractors Union (ACU) executive bureau opened its 14th session on Saturday at the Jordanian Contractors Association under the chairmanship of ACU President Abdul Rahim Al Hjouji. In their first session, participants discussed a number of topics related to supporting Arab contractors through projects financed by Arab funds and by giving priority to Arab contractors.

They also discussed coordination with the Arab-Afro bank for development and the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to support Arab contracting works in projects financed by the two banks. The participants also discussed an initiative taken by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development which

entrusted the union with conducting comprehensive studies to develop the Arab contracting industry.

During the two-day meeting the participants will also discuss the ACU's future plans and budget besides other internal issues.

The meetings are being attended by delegates from Jordan, Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Syria, Iraq, Libya, and North Yemen.

Mr. Hjouji said that the union's future plan provides for supporting and encouraging Arab contractors to enable them to compete with foreign contractors in bidding for international tenders.

JVA supplied Amman with 18m cubic metres of water last winter via Deir Alla

AMMAN (I.T.) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) last winter supplied Amman with 18 million cubic metres of drinking water via the Deir Alla water project in the Jordan Valley region. JVA Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani said in a statement on Saturday.

He said that water from Deir Alla will continue to be pumped to Amman during the coming summer after being purified at the water treatment station at Zay.

Referring to the amounts of water stored behind Jordan's dams, Dr. Bani Hani said that rain water stored in the reservoirs this year has not yet reached the level of 68 million cubic metres. The water stored behind the King Talal Dam is estimated at 41 million cubic metres, Wadi Al Arab dam at 18 million and the remainder is stored in dams in the Jordan Valley.

The JVA has recently raised the height of the King Talal Dam by 16 metres which increased the reservoir's storage capacity to 90 million cubic metres. But work is



Mercedes-Benz Symposium for the Arab World

Daimler-Benz AG, manufacturers of renowned Mercedes-Benz passenger cars and commercial vehicles, have chosen the city of Amman for their Arab World symposium on the importance of after-sales service with special emphasis on the use of genuine approved replacement parts.

Jordan, being the main transit centre for the Middle East transport industry, has been chosen for this conference for the 19 Mercedes-Benz general agents represented by their general managers and parts managers.

The symposium is taking place in the Marriott Hotel from April 25-27, 1987.

Approved Mercedes-Benz original parts, enjoying the same high quality-reputation as Mercedes-Benz cars, trucks and buses, plus the assurance of efficient maintenance and repair facilities are the basis for the expanding after-sales-service support. Daimler-Benz provides its customers in the Middle East.

Daimler-Benz AG, through continuous training by field-service personnel and their central training facilities in Stuttgart/West Germany, has achieved a motivation and spirit in their Arab World partners, which has helped to create the confidence placed in these efforts by the growing number of Mercedes-Benz clients.

The symposium's purpose is to review the training and marketing measures with a view to expand and improve Arab and world-wide parts-service facilities and enhance Mercedes-Benz customers' satisfaction and loyalty.

Some Mercedes-Benz customers have experienced disappointment and damage to their vehicle by the use of non-original, also called "will-fit" parts bought by certain service- and repair-shops because of their lower costs compared to the original and approved Mercedes-Benz parts.

The symposium will highlight the benefits and long-life performance by the use of tested, approved, genuine Mercedes-Benz parts. The symposium is finally a valuable forum for the Daimler-Benz agents to be informed of the latest product developments, modern quality controls and fast supply channels to customers. It is equally of importance for Daimler-Benz Co. itself to learn from their agents and Mercedes-Benz customers, what improvements in both, product and organisation, are recommended to assure the Mercedes-Benz car, truck and bus customer of the long-term benefits of using Mercedes-Benz products.

Daimler-Benz has invited the Arab and especially the Jordanian press to discuss its after-sales activities in the Arab World at the end of the symposium.

Jordan Times

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The Jordan Times is published weekly.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Eyes on Europe

THE message that President of the European Community's Executive Commission Jacques Delors sent on the 30th anniversary of the EC should be read and understood not only by Europeans. We in the Arab World, perhaps more than any other peoples on earth, need to think about it and see for ourselves what lesson there is for us to learn from the ideas contained in it. The history and socio-political experiences of the Europeans are not necessarily the same as ours; they are nonetheless relevant and useful, and from them we can draw conclusions that could serve our development process and future progress.

The greatest lesson we in the Arab World can draw from the European experience is of course the need to end our differences and to cooperate and work with each other in the common interest of all of us. The people of Europe had fought so many wars among themselves, but they have come to realise that there is no alternative to cooperation and fraternity for the benefit of all. Why should we Arabs not learn from the lessons of history and cut short the period of fratricidal wars that we have been fighting, in favour of building for our common future and unity?

It probably okay for some to say it took the Europeans so long and cost them so much to bring themselves into a civilised, productive community; and that it would naturally take us some more time and wars to get to that stage of development. But is it not also hypocritical and wrong for those among us who use this reasoning not to themselves work for avoiding all the impending suffering and bloodshed and start now to at least build the Arab World into a community like the EC? If Arab unity is indeed difficult, almost impossible at this stage, why do we not start at where the Europeans did 30 years ago? Do Arab regimes not owe that much to their peoples?

We look at the experience of the European Community, on the 30th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, and ask ourselves: Can't the Arab World do as well? Do we not need to act now, before it is too late and costly?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: No to separate deals

ISRAELI Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has said that Jordan is now eligible for concluding a peace treaty with Israel, to become the second Arab country after Egypt to do so. This is clearly intended to create dissension among Arabs and is a campaign to mislead world public opinion, because Shamir realises too well that Jordan is committed to the idea of an international peace conference with the participation of all concerned parties and has never contemplated the idea of holding separate talks with Israel to reach a partial settlement. Partial solutions can never result in a comprehensive peace which Jordan has been advocating all along. Therefore, Shamir's campaign is bound to end up in total failure and meet the same fate of previous propaganda campaigns directed against Jordan. Shamir's statement that the PLO constitutes a far greater danger to Jordan than Israel, is clearly meant to draw a wedge between the PLO and Jordan, and therefore, it is an object of ridicule. Any differences between the PLO and Jordan should be understood as a manifestation of different views about the most suitable and proper means of regaining Arab rights usurped by Israel. The Jordanians and Palestinians are fused into one entity, and both sides have no real differences. The only and basic difference is that one which separates Israel from the Arabs whose lands have been usurped and their rights and territory stolen. Jordan is totally committed to its national stand, and will certainly not enter into separate deals with Israel and can by no means reach a separate peace treaty with the Jewish state.

Al Dustour: Israel prepares for aggression

ISRAEL has paved for a new large-scale aggression on South Lebanon following a series of raids on specific areas in that territory especially those that are close to the coast. The raids and the expected aggression are both intended to stifle the resistance and to remove all forms of anti-Israeli elements in the southern regions of Lebanon. Israel has maintained air raids on Palestinian refugee camps and carried out numerous ground offensives in the region of South Lebanon in a bid to discover the positions of the resistance and also to spread terror among the local inhabitants and force them to abandon their homes when the time comes for the expected aggression. Perhaps the presence of numerous media representatives and journalists in South Lebanon at present is another indication that the Israelis intend to launch a new offensive. For its part, the Lebanese government has informed the ambassadors of foreign countries of the real situation and also briefed the United Nations' Security Council about Israel's intentions and its massing of troops along the border and the constant raids it launches on innocent civilians. We are closely watching the situation in South Lebanon and hope that any new Israeli aggression will serve as a unifying element, pooling the resources of all Lebanese factions in the face of the invaders and joining all groups into fight for freedom.

Sawt Al Shaab: Arab leaders intensify peace efforts

ARAB leaders are continuing their moves on the international scene in order to gain more and more support for their nation's struggle to achieve peace based on justice. Following King Hussein's recent visit to Europe and upon the conclusion of King Fahd's visits to Britain and France, President Hafez Al Assad of Syria has gone to Moscow for talks on the prospects of peace. Both Moscow and Damascus support the idea of an international peace conference and they maintain that no durable solution for the Middle East problem can be reached outside the framework of international legitimacy and complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab land occupied since 1967. Arab leaders' drive to convene the conference is bound to isolate those countries that still refuse the idea of peace and expose them as real obstacles in the path of peace. The Soviet-Syrian talks form an important move towards containing the danger that has been threatening the Middle East in general and Syria in particular because Syria has special responsibilities in Lebanon and is always facing the prospect of Israeli aggression. We feel confident that Arab leaders' moves on the international scene would crystallise at the end, and result in the emergence of unanimous stand in favour of the proposed conference.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Bouncing cheques: There is a solution

THERE is a big noise about the problem of cheques that bounce due to insufficient funds. This problem is not new. It has been with us since we became familiar with banks and started to pay by cheques. The growth in dealing with cheques as means for payment has, no doubt, been accompanied by a corresponding growth in bouncing cheques.

Contrary to the general impression, the phenomenon of bouncing cheques has not worsened in recent years. As a matter of fact the number and value of bouncing cheques have been declining, but the sensitivity of people towards financial difficulties and troubles has been rising all the time.

To prove this, we point out to the fact that bouncing cheques at the Clearing House of the Central Bank of Jordan during 1986 amounted to 160,700 cheques, 5,000 cheques below the level of 1985. The value of these cheques was JD 155.4 million against JD 176.6 million in the year before, a substantial improvement of JD 21.2 million or 12 per cent. Bouncing cheques were always in the neighbourhood of 3 per cent of cheques despatched for clearing.

Amman Chamber of Commerce has perceived bouncing cheques as a potential problem to the business sector and has accordingly asked a local consulting firm to conduct a study on the subject. Several years ago, the Jordanian Banks Association thought of bouncing cheques as a problem facing banks, and studied the matter.

The problem of bouncing cheques can be dealt with by exactly the above-mentioned two sectors, mainly the trading businesses

and the commercial banks. Unless they act, the country might need a new legislation to compel them to, a measure that is most needed to restore and maintain public confidence in dealing with cheques.

Traders should not demand post-dated cheques from a customer when they know that the issuer does not own the cover in his bank account at the time of writing the cheque. Such a trader is evidently an accomplice in wrongdoing, because he knows that the cheque is no more than a promise to pay.

Commercial banks on the other hand should not issue cheque books to whoever opens a current account and deposit a negligible amount. They should first satisfy themselves that the customer is honest, understands his obligations, respects the law and does not habitually issue cheques without sufficient cover. Black lists are now available to bankers but unfortunately they are not consulted.

As long as traders ask for, or accept post-dated cheques to trap the customer and threaten legal action in the future, and as long as commercial banks are eager to open accounts and issue cheque books without proper investigation, the phenomenon of bouncing cheques will persist.

An amendment to the existing legislation dealing with this problem should include the reduction of punishment to the crime of issuing cheques without sufficient funds to become one week of imprisonment, instead of the unreasonable six months to three years, or the reduction of the fine to two per cent of the cheques value. In this manner, punishment would not be impossible, and

judges would not have to search for all reasons and excuses to avoid the extremely harsh punishment prescribed in the current law.

Those who accept post-dated cheques in bad faith, knowing that the drawer does not own the cover, should be treated as accomplices in the offence, or at least be prevented from suing by virtue of the cheque except as an evidence of debt and not a form of payment.

Commercial banks in turn should be obliged to honour cheques written on their own stationary to the extent of say JD 50, irrespective of the sufficiency of funds in the account of the drawer. In such cases the bank should allow the account to be overdrawn and look for its own customer for reimbursement. Under such regulation, banks would not take the practice lightly. They would do some homework before issuing cheque books recklessly.

This method would of course cost banks some money, which is a needed incentive. We should not forget that cheque accounts do not earn interest. Banks should therefore be able to tolerate some cost of maintaining current accounts in proportion to their negligence in investigating new customers, and for not closing old accounts operated by customers who were not trustworthy.

We have tried to state the problem without exaggeration, and put forward the solution that worked in advanced countries such as France. If we do not act in time, we might have to wait for the outcome of more future studies which, after all, might not come out with any better solutions.

30 years of the EC: What future for a united Europe

By Jacques Delors

The writer is the president of the European Community's Executive Commission. He wrote this article on the occasion of the EC's 30th anniversary

1957-1987. The European Community is celebrating its thirtieth anniversary. It is a time for Europeans, whether in politics or in any other walk of life to pause and think about what has been accomplished and what still has to be done. A partial balance sheet which, quite naturally, dwells more readily on the work that still lies ahead of, rather than on progress already made.

After a long history of fratricidal wars, Europeans have at last opted in favour of peace, conciliation and permanent dialogue, the difficult but patient search for common solutions for a future

which henceforward we know will be shared. This has been done thanks to the European Community. For all those who have not themselves known war in Europe, and today they are in the majority, this fundamental mutation is taken for an established fact, the importance and fragility of which at times they do not suspect. But they are astonished that it is not translated more rapidly and positively into a true European union.

The great majority of Europe's citizens want to see that union come about. A great majority of them, as the opinion polls tell us, believe that their country's belonging to the Community is important. Two thirds of our citizens think that belonging to the Community already brings benefits but are calling for a

future in which there will be a united states of Europe with, among other things, a European President, common currency and defence, a European television system and so on.

Without doubt the aspirations and desires of Europeans themselves go well beyond the sloth of government apparatus, the inhibiting hand of bureaucracy, the procrastination of politicians.

But what does this grand design for Europe imply for the countries of the Third World? What is in it for them? The reply is not up to us. Everybody will make his own analysis no doubt putting the following questions:

— Is not a unified Europe a more reliable partner for the countries of the South, more open to dialogue, more likely to take into account mutual long-term interests, than a collection of states responding in a fragmented way to the enormous challenge of development? Will a unified Europe be more "imperial" or more respectful of the identity and choices of its partners? Remember — the same Europe that was divided by

the two superpowers?

— Is not a unified Europe a more reliable partner for the countries of the South, more open to dialogue, more likely to take into account mutual long-term interests, than a collection of states responding in a fragmented way to the enormous challenge of development? Will a unified Europe be more "imperial" or more respectful of the identity and choices of its partners? Remember — the same Europe that was divided by

the two superpowers?

— Europe must succeed for the good of Europeans themselves. Its failure would have still wider-reaching consequences ... it would seriously damage Europe's ability to make its contribution to a world based on better balanced relations between groups of countries which amongst themselves have taken up and won the challenge of cooperation.

L. American civilian governments reject military pressure

By Bruce Handler
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — New civilian governments across South America have faced down mutinous soldiers in a series of recent incidents that underscore the continent's political volatility.

In some cases, the civilian rulers have compromised with members of the military regimes that controlled most South American governments ten years ago. But the overall message, reinforced by massive civilian demonstrations and even opposition parties, is that most South American nations are extremely wary of a return to military rule.

South America's armed forces are never far from the political stage, however. Following the tradition of several centuries, many Latin American military men still reserve the "right" to intervene again.

Alfonso is struggling to reorganise the military to eliminate the chances of future threats.

Less serious military rumblings have occurred under civilian governments in Ecuador, Peru, Brazil and Uruguay.

In each case, civilian authority, while making some concessions, has retained the upper hand. While the threat from the military has diminished, however, the only means to extinguish it may be time and experience with civilian rule.

"Delirious crowds shouting 'viva' for democracy, or laws prohibiting coups are not enough," commented Rio De Janeiro's widely read newspaper Jornal Do

America's 12 independent nations were under military rule. Today, as a result of inept performances by soldier politicians, public outcries against secret arrests, torture and "disappearances," and international pressure, only three nations — Chile, Paraguay and Suriname — remain without civilian administrations.

Later, however, Alfonso indicated his administration might relent a bit from its implacable prosecution of military chiefs accused of human rights abuses under the former regime.

A decade ago, eight of South America's 12 independent nations were under military rule. Today, as a result of inept performances by soldier politicians, public outcries against secret arrests, torture and "disappearances," and international pressure, only three nations — Chile, Paraguay and Suriname — remain without civilian administrations.

Brazil. "The countries of this continent still lack institutional ballast."

Here is a look at the military-civilian clashes that have rattled South America in recent months:

Argentina

The president's troubles began last week when an army major refused to answer a court summons in a human rights case stemming from Argentina's 1976

period of military rule, when thousands were killed in the military's "dirty war" against suspected leftists.

Responding to the crisis,

Alfonso persuaded hundreds of thousands of Argentines to gather in city plazas to proclaim their opposition to a new military takeover.

Peru

Peru's elected president, Alan

Garcia, openly backed Alfonsin. Garcia faced similar problems just two weeks earlier, when air force jets buzzed his Lima presidential palace because he fired air force commander Gen. Luis Abram.

Abrahan had opposed a law championed by Garcia merging the three armed-service branches under a civilian defence minister and ending the secrecy of the military budget-making process.

Brazil

Rumours of a military coup circulated this month in Brazil, where soldiers ruled for 21 years before turning power over to civilians in 1985. But the army and navy ministries said the rumours were baseless.

President Jose Sarney telephoned Alfonso with words of hope that he would overcome the Argentine revolt.

Febrerio Cordero, who expressed public sympathy for Alfonso during the Argentine rebellion, said military dissidents in both countries "are following personal ambition and do not represent the will of the armed forces, much less the will of their nations."

Uruguay

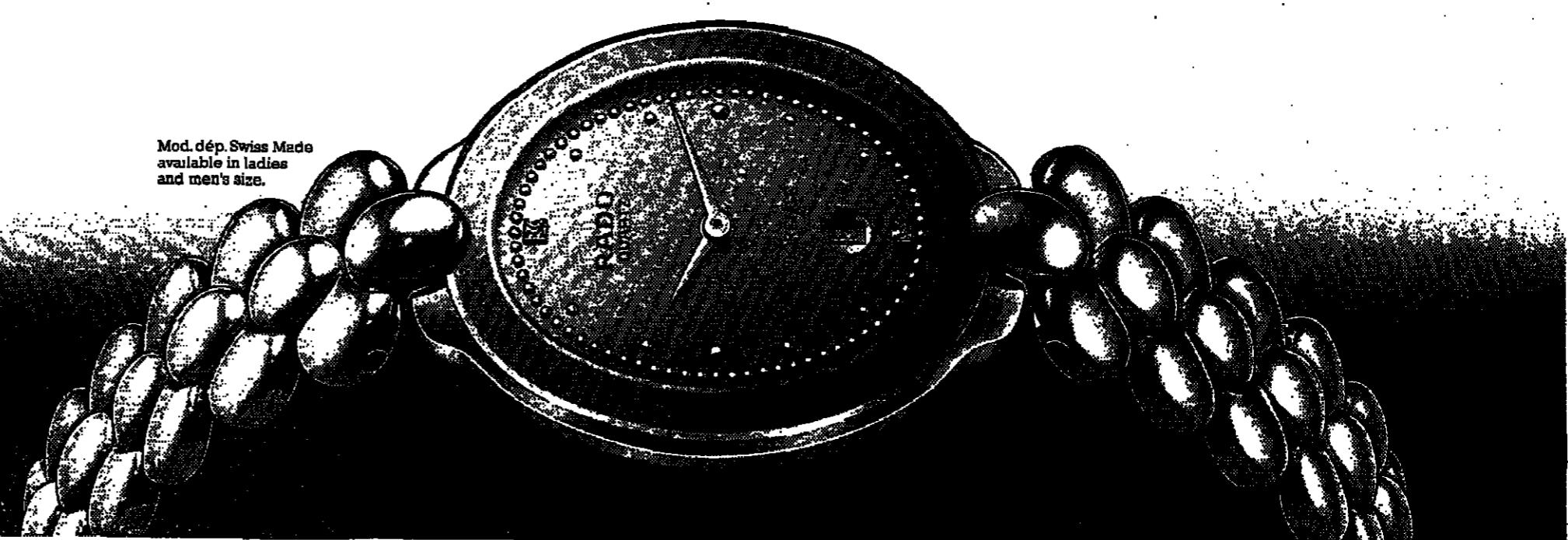
Military grumbling grew louder last year in Uruguay because of the attempted prosecution of officers accused of torture and "disappearances" under military governments that ruled from 1973 to 1985.

Finally, in December, civilian president Julio Sanguineti pushed through an amnesty barring such trials. "It saves our democratic institutions," said one legislator.

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Earth's air-pollution dilemma knows no geographic boundaries

National Geographic

WASHINGTON — Chernobyl a year ago demonstrated the fact frighteningly: Contaminated air can escape from behind even the most secure national borders.

The explosion of a nuclear reactor in the Soviet Union sent telltale clouds across several international boundaries, to Poland, Finland, Sweden, and beyond.

In Athens, acid deposition has caused more erosion on the ancient marble Parthenon in the past 24 years than had occurred in 24 centuries.

Pollution is everywhere. The Scandinavians are angry with the British over acid rain. Canadians are impatient with the United States for the same reason; most emissions from North America's heartland fall on eastern Canada as well as the northeastern United States.

Dust from China drifts across the North Pacific and is detected by air-monitoring lasers atop Hawaii's 13,680-foot Mauna Loa volcano.

"Valley of death"

The most polluted place on earth, Noel Grove writes in the April National Geographic, may be Cubatão, Brazil, called the "valley of death" by its residents.

Scores of industrial plants, including a petrochemical complex, pump at least 75 pollutants into Cubatão's air, raising contamination levels in parts of the city of 100,000 to twice those considered safe for humans.

Breathing the air in Mexico City on some winter mornings has been compared to smoking two packs of cigarettes a day. The culprits: Vehicle exhaust, factory smoke, and smoldering refuse heaps.

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In contrast, Grove writes, the

pounds enter our environment each year. Some are proven cancer-causing substances, and many more are suspected. Yet only eight chemicals are listed as hazardous and are regulated at their source by the EPA.

\$10 billion medical bill

Americans spend more than \$10 billion a year on medical problems caused by outdoor pollutants, Grove reports. Ozone resulting from automobile emissions annually reduces crop yields significantly, sometimes by as much as 20 per cent, in the case of soybeans.

Even the Earth's poles aren't exempt from contamination. Until the arrival of spring each year, the North Pole resembles a turn-of-the-century coal town, Grove writes.

In winter, when the Arctic is tilted into constant night and the sun cannot generate cleansing winds and precipitation, the largest single mass of pollution sits atop the globe like a dirty cap.

Scientists — now able to analyze samplings as small as one part per trillion parts of air — can trace pollution to its source.

Most North Pole pollution has been pinned to a mineral-rich smelting area in the Soviet Union's Ural Mountains.

In contrast, Grove writes, the

South Pole seems fairly clean because 90 per cent of the world's population lives in the Northern Hemisphere. Yet, during the past eight years the protective ozone layer has become thinner each spring over the pole.

A major hole was detected in late 1985. In the upper atmosphere, 12 to 30 miles above ground, ozone intercepts the sun's damaging ultraviolet radiation.

Scientists differ on the possible culprit: industrial chemicals, solar cycles, or perhaps simply upwellings of air from the lower atmosphere.

Globally, the levels of carbon dioxide, which holds heat close to the earth, are 27 per cent greater today than they were before 1850, scientists have found.

The probable cause is the burning of fossil fuels and the clearing and burning of forests by farmers.

Nations of North America and Europe, including the Soviet Union, emit the most carbon dioxide because they consume the greater part of the world's oil, coal, and gas. But most of these countries burn less today than they did in 1980.

However, fossil-fuel consumption is on the rise in the rapidly developing countries of Asia, Latin America, and Africa. Scientists worry that the growing burden of carbon dioxide and other gases, such as methane, may raise global temperatures.

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A stricter but less common form of concealment, advocated by hardliners, includes a nose-veil or a long rectangular piece of material fixed to the head-dress and covering the entire face. Eye-slits are optional but gloves are always worn.

Not slow to spot a business opportunity, Egyptians are opening more shops specialising in day, evening and bridal wear for the fashion-conscious veiled woman, who has no need to sacrifice sequins and tailored fit in the pursuit of purity.

Hairdressers are also catching on to the veiling trend.

One salon owner in downtown Cairo has set aside a section of his shop for veiled customers. "More women want their hair done by members of their own sex," he says.

She adopted the veil despite the disapproval of her mother and her friends — all of whom wear Western-style clothes. A year later she discarded it.

"People always made me feel like the odd one out. I lost the conviction I started out with," she said.

Islam stipulates that women dress modestly, covering all parts of the body except the face, hands and feet. Women should shun clothes that attract attention but trousers, frowned on by purists, are sometimes worn under long shirts or tunics dresses.

In the streets of cosmopolitan Cairo, one can see various versions of head-coverings, some of which surround the face like a nun's cowl and fall loosely to the shoulder.

Some of the wearers seem to be

religious, but how can a veiled doctor examine a child. That child could become hysterical," a doctor, Mohammad Hawary, wrote recently.

A Western-style beauty pageant to select the first Miss Egypt took place last month in a hotel ballroom swarming with security men because organisers feared demonstrations.

Organisers held the swimsuit competition, mandatory for beauty queens but out of line with Islamic tenets, for judges only at a private villa near the Giza pyramids.

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Former film star gives rare interview

BONN, West Germany (AP) — Screen legend Marlene Dietrich, in a rare interview released Monday by a West German newspaper, says she still gets angry at being remembered as the sex symbol from "The Blue Angel."

The Bonn-published newspaper Die Welt said the reclusive 86-year-old former actress, who was born and raised in Berlin but became a U.S. citizen in 1939, was giving her first interview in three years.

She told Die Welt she still gets upset when "The Blue Angel," the 1930 film directed by Josef von Sternberg that turned Ms. Dietrich into a glamorous star, is remembered mainly for her appearance in short pants.

"Most of the world stars live in seclusion, as you term it. Naturally we don't walk around in crowded streets, where you can't hide from autograph hunters," Ms. Dietrich was quoted as saying.

"Naturally, we don't go to fashion shows or other events of that sort. Like other women, I invite my friends to visit me (at home). I'm quite beloved as a cook. Beyond that, 'I have a big family which keeps me occupied,' said Dietrich.

Excerpts from the interview, which was due to appear in Die Welt's Tuesday editions, were telecast to news agencies on Monday. Die Welt and Ms. Dietrich spoke German in the interview.

Ms. Dietrich retired from moviemaking in the early 1960s after a 40-year career that included "Shanghai Express," "The Devil is a Woman," "Foreign Affair" and "Judgment at Nuremberg." She later cut re-

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Liverpool refuses to surrender title

LONDON (R) — Liverpool dramatically halted Everton's title surge when they beat their city rivals 3-1 Saturday in a thrilling English League top-of-the-table clash at Anfield.

The reigning champions knew defeat would almost certainly mean the league crown returning to Everton and, despite having won only one of their last five matches, they rose superbly to the challenge in front of a capacity 44,800 crowd.

Steve McMahon gave Liverpool the lead in the ninth minute with a powerful 20-metre drive. Everton equalised seven minutes later from a similar distance when Kevin Sheedy rifled home a free kick.

It was left to Ian Rush, playing in his last Merseyside clash before his move next season to Juventus of Italy, to score two more vital goals which equalled Dixie Dean's record of 19 in games between the two clubs.

The Welsh international was on hand to head home a corner from Ronnie Whelan a minute before halftime. Then he put the match out Everton's reach with a second goal 11 minutes from time.

The result, which brought to an end a run of six consecutive league victories by Everton, closed the gap between the two clubs to three points.

Soviet Union edges Canada in World Hockey championships

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Despite Canada's strong team effort to overwhelm the mighty Soviet Union, the defending champion "Redshirts" stretched its perfect record to 6-0 at the World Hockey Championships.

Playing without pressure, because they virtually have qualified among the top four teams that will fight for the medals, the Soviets edged Canada 3-2 by a late goal in the third period.

The Soviet Union features an identical team that split two games with the NHL (National Hockey League) all-stars in the Rendez-vous '87 Series in Quebec earlier this year, including the deadly attacking trio Vladimir Krutov, Igor Larionov and Sergei Makarov.

In another match Friday Finland upset Sweden, last year's finalists in Moscow, 4-1, and came closer to the four-team playoffs.

The United States is scheduled to face Switzerland, considered the weakest team on the tournament, and West Germany plays Czechoslovakia.

IHF bows to court order

West Germany's hockey team, which had two world championship victories taken away by the International Ice Hockey Federation for fielding an ineligible player, had them temporarily restored Saturday after the IIHF bowed to the terms of a court order.

The federation had acted after hearing objections that West Germany fielded Polish-born defenceman Miloslav Sikora in its first four matches of the tournament.

Finland, which lost 3-1 to the West Germans, had lodged a protest that Sikora, who scored one of the goals against it, played for Poland's junior team in an international tournament 11 years ago and was therefore ineligible to play for his adopted country.

West Germany's victories over Finland and Canada, as well as a 3-0 defeat by Sweden, were turned into a 5-0 defeat. Sikora, who has since returned to Cologne, was banned from the competition.

West German hockey officials, who said the IIHF originally cleared Sikora to play, took their case to a Viennese judge, who Friday granted an injunction temporarily overturning the federation's ruling.

After consulting with their lawyers Saturday, the federation's members said they would comply with the judge's order at least until Monday's final games had been completed and they could assess the importance of the two victories.

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But Everton are still favourites to regain the title. With four matches left they still have a game in hand on Liverpool and also enjoy a much better goal difference.

Third-placed Tottenham retained their slim chance of sneaking past the top two with a 3-1 win at home to lowly Oxford.

Tottenham, were 2-0 up in 15 minutes through Chris Waddle and Paul Allen. Although Dean Saunders scored for Oxford in the 21st minute Glenn Hoddle wrapped it up in the last minute after racing half the length of the field and dummying the goalkeeper for a typically flamboyant strike.

Tottenham's neighbours, fourth-placed Arsenal, had a miserable afternoon losing 3-0 at bottom club Manchester City. Two goals from Imre Varadi and one from Paul Stewart, all in the second half, gave City a welcome tonic.

But it looks to be too late. Fellow strugglers Aston Villa handed out a 4-0 thrashing to visitors West Ham and remain one point ahead City with three games remaining.

Charlton gained a hard earned point with a 2-2 draw at Southampton to move to 38 points, two ahead of Aston Villa and two behind Leicester who slipped deeper into trouble with a 2-1 home defeat at the hands of

Watford.

Newcastle made it five successive home wins with a 1-0 triumph over Chelsea — a result which virtually guaranteed them first division football next season.

Almost inevitably the goal came from former West Ham striker Paul Goddard, his eighth in the last nine games.

Rangers can make sure of the title by beating Aberdeen next Saturday

Iraq cruises to win over Jordan in Olympic soccer

KUWAIT (R) — Iraq cruised to a 2-0 win over Jordan in Kuwait to triumph in both legs of their West Asian Group Two soccer qualifying tie for the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

of them boisterous Iraqi fans, the winning side was in command for most of the match.

Iraq won the first leg of the qualifier 2-1 in Amman.

It was prevented from hosting its "home" leg of the tie under rules laid down by the world soccer governing body, the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA), which bans the playing of internationals in countries at war.

Iraq, Iraq's foe in the nearly seven-year-old Gulf war, was bundled out of the Olympic race by Kuwait in an opening tie of the West Asian Group Four qualifying round.

Playing in front of a crowd estimated at 8,000 people, many

defeat of Hearts.

Arch rivals Celtic postponed the championship celebrations with a 3-1 win at St. Muren which keeps them within three points of Rangers.

McCoist's three goals took his total in the league this season to 33, three more than the record set by Jim Forrest in the 1960s.

Rangers can make sure of the title by beating Aberdeen next Saturday

'Super' chess tourney ends in dramatic tie

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — World chess champion Garry Kasparov scored a dramatic final-round victory in the Super Grandmaster Tournament to finish in a tie for: first with the overnight leader, Ljubomir Ljubojevic of Yugoslavia.

However, Ljubojevic's brilliant eighth-round win against fourth-placed Swiss grandmaster Victor Korchnoi enabled him to defeat Kasparov under a complicated tie-breaking system.

Ljubojevic, 36, was content to move his score on to 8½ points out of a possible 11 by agreeing to a rapid 14-move draw with Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union.

That left Kasparov, at 7½ points, needing a win to tie for first.

Playing white against fellow Soviet Mikhail Tal, Kasparov showed little mercy. He tore through his opponents defences with a devastating king-side attack to force resignation after 31 moves.

On Saturday, Ljubojevic was presented with the award for first place, while the two winners shared the prize money each receiving around \$10,600.

Karpov, 35, a former world champion, finished third.

Korchnoi was joined at 6½ points by Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman, who drew with fellow countryman John van der Wiel.

Tal came in sixth, with Danish grandmaster Bent Larsen, who outplayed England's Nigel Short, seventh at 5½ points.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan (far right) supports teammate Mamoun Abu Nuwar (centre) in a Jordanian attack during a polo match against the Italian military team held at Zarqa on Saturday. An Italian defender (far left) scrambles to fend off the attack.

Jordan beats Italy in polo

By Munem Fakhaeri
Special to the Jordan Times

ZARQA — The Jordanian polo team led by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday struggled to defeat the Italian polo team by four goals to nil. Prince Hassan scored three times during the match which was held at the Polo Club in the Zarqa military camp.

At the end of the match Prince Hassan distributed awards to members of the visiting team

while Prince Rashid Ibn Al-Hassan presented the cup to Prince Hassan.

The Italian team's leader distributed awards to the members of the Jordanian team.

Following the match, Prince Hassan spoke to the Jordan Times paying tribute to the Italian team and attributing the victory of the national team to continuous training.

Prince Hassan said that the Jordanian national team has accepted an invitation to play in Rome and that a date will later be announced for the match which will be against the same team of the Italian armed forces.

Prince Hassan described the match with the Italian military polo team as one of the best ever played between the national team and a visiting team which he said enjoys high sports morale.

The match was attended by Italian ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Luigi Amaduzzi.

Pfaff stars again in Bayern victory

BONN (R) — Belgian World Cup goalkeeper Jean-Marie Pfaff, the hero of Madrid on Wednesday, stole the show again as West German league leaders Bayern Munich continued their winning ways with a 2-1 win in Bochum Saturday.

Pfaff stopped a penalty with the score balanced at 1-1 in the second half and made several other superb saves to extend Bayern's unbeaten away record in the league to 22 games. They last lost away in November 1985.

The Belgian had been the undoubtedly star three days ago when his astounding reflexes helped a 10-man Bayern hold Real Madrid to a 1-0 scoreline in a European Cup second leg match. The Munich side won 4-2 on aggregate.

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Bankamerica posts \$67 million profit in first quarter of '87

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Troubled Bankamerica Corp., the second-largest U.S. banking company, last week reported a five per cent profit rise to \$67 million for the first quarter, the bank's second consecutive quarter out of the red.

The San Francisco banking giant said its earnings for the three-month period would have been greater but for its decision to place \$1.93 billion of Brazilian loans and \$180 million in loans to Ecuador on a cash basis, meaning that it will not record interest payments due as income until those payments actually arrive.

Analysts said the quarterly results met expectations and were positive. "We're not expecting a dramatic rebound, but the trends are certainly moving in positive direction," said analyst Don Crowley of Keefe Bruyette and Woods.

The quarterly profits in part reflected Bankamerica's sale of various units, including its Charles Schwab and Co discount brokerage firm, resulting in after-tax gains of \$127 million, it said.

Bankamerica, which recently fought off a takeover bid by First Interstate Bancorp of Los Angeles, did not release quarterly earnings on continuing operations, a closer gauge of its strength.

But Chairman A. W. Clausen said the bank's earnings showed it was recovering. He noted the bank's ongoing operating costs declined eight per cent from the fourth quarter.

Bankamerica last year lost \$518 million, one of the largest losses posted by any bank. But it reported an \$82 million profit in the fourth quarter, the first indication that it may be turning around. Mr. Clausen has said the bank's loan problems have peaked.

The statement was supported by the bank's report that its provisions for bad loans declined for the quarter just ended. The bank said it made a \$315 million provision in the three-month period for loan losses, compared with a \$378 million provision in the fourth quarter of 1986.

"We believe that by the end of the year we will be operating in the black on an ongoing basis," chief financial officer, Mr. Frank Newman, said at a press conference.

But he said the banking company's progress could be hampered if Brazil did not come to some kind of repayment agreement with its foreign creditor banks. Brazil in February suspended payments on its \$68 billion commercial debt.

Bankamerica said its decision to put a portion of its \$2.74 billion in loans to Brazil on a cash basis reduced its operating earnings by \$54 million.

Brewing giant earmarks third of profit for legal expenditures

LONDON (R) — Guinness, the giant Anglo-Irish brewing firm facing legal wrangles after taking over Scottish whisky makers Distillers, last week set aside more than one-third of its latest pretax profits to cover costs incurred in the affair.

Guinness said final pretax profits for the 15 months until last December were £355 million (\$575 million), slightly more than market analysts had predicted, but said £125 million (\$202 million) was set aside.

The results were issued on a 15-month basis because Guinness normally reported profits for 12 months ending Sept. 30 and Distillers ending March 31. From now on Guinness plans to report on a January to December basis.

The company is facing a British government investigation into share dealings in the company during its successful £2.7 billion (\$4.2 billion) takeover of Distillers after a battle with rival bidder Argyll Group, a British supermarket chain.

It is also embroiled in legal efforts to retrieve some fee payments totalling £25 million (\$40.5 million) which it says were made during the takeover bid.

Market analysts said the money that Guinness intended setting aside included provision for anticipated legal costs which the company may face.

Guinness said its provisions took account of uncertainties over the timing and amount of the recovery of assets.

Former Guinness chairman, Mr. Ernest Saunders, has been accused by the company of helping make a payment to Mr. Thomas Ward, a U.S. director of the company, in a secret operation.

A Guinness director told London's High Court earlier this month that Mr. Saunders and Mr. Ward were suspected of paying a total of £5.2 million (\$8.3 million) to a bank in the channel island of Jersey.

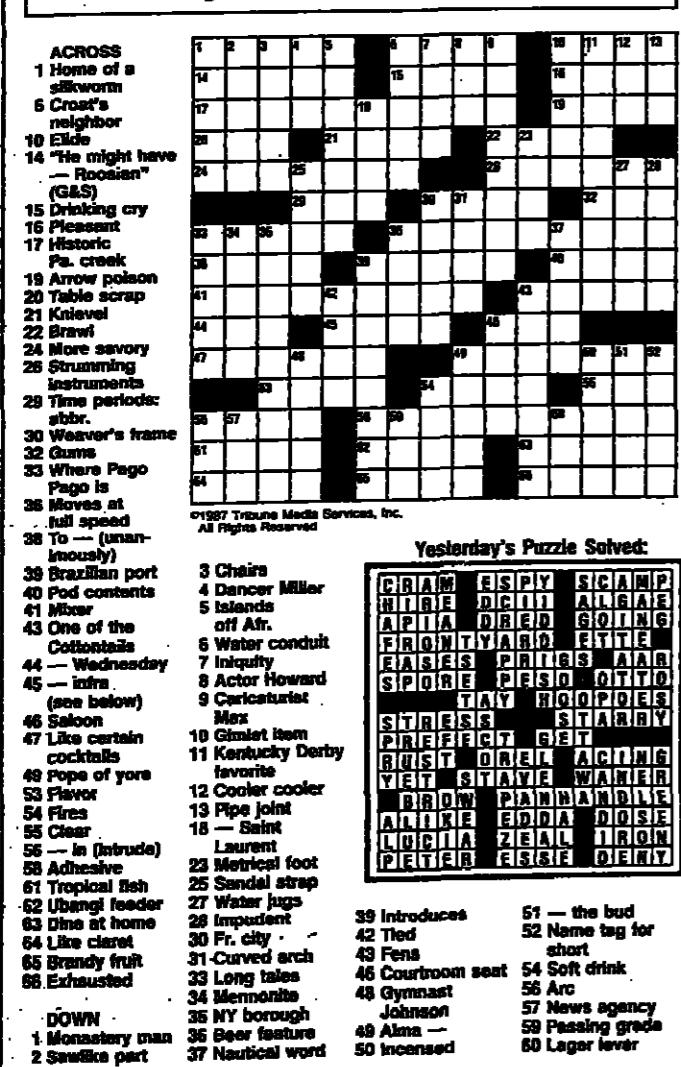
The High Court earlier this month ruled that transfer illegal and ordered Mr. Ward, who it said had received the money, to repay as much of it as was left and freeze his assets to cover the balance.

Mr. Saunders was sacked by Guinness from his post as chairman and chief executive.

Iran to give Syria 1m tonnes of oil

LONDON (R) — Iran is to give one million tonnes of crude oil to Syria this year to assist its armed forces and efforts against Israel, the Iranian News Agency IRNA reported Saturday. The agency, received in London, said the agreement was reached at talks between visiting Syrian Oil Minister Ghazi Al Droubi and Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh. Mr. Aqazadeh described relations between the two countries as exceptionally good and called for them to be expanded further, the agency said. Mr. Droubi, who arrived in Iran on April 18 at the head of a high-level delegation, underwent an operation for appendicitis at a hospital in Tehran last Monday.

THE Daily Crossword by James E. Hinsh, Jr.



Horoscope not received

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (U.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, April 18, '87 and ending Wednesday, April 22, '87. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	4650	10178	2.250	2.100	1.000
Petra Bank	2032	4167	2.100	2.100	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	7060	11607	1.650	1.650	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	7254	9077	1.270	1.240	1.000
Housing Bank	3000	4953	1.650	1.650	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	1750	3813	2.170	2.150	1.000
Cain Amman Bank	940	26320	25.500	28.000	5.000
Bank of Jordan	1863	33717	18.470	18.000	5.000
Arab Bank	680	83360	121.250	123.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	6115	15254	2.560	2.480	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	58427	48492	0.830	0.830	1.000
Islamic Investment House	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	15817	18318	1.680	1.640	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	40500	32753	0.830	0.770	1.000
National Financial Investments	72150	97510	1.400	1.350	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	22090	16359	0.760	0.730	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	3638	3258	0.900	0.900	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	7290	10191	1.400	1.390	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Al Mashreq Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	9245	44468	4.950	4.950	1.000
REFCO Life Insurance	2765	2505	0.900	0.900	1.000
Jordan Insurance	994	11027	11.000	11.000	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	9750	8055	0.840	0.810	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	1500	1545	1.020	1.030	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	6300	6898	1.050	1.100	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	25000	2500	0.900	0.900	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	122	162	1.360	1.330	1.000
Jordan-Citi Insurance	1200	902	0.760	0.750	1.000
Universal Insurance	—	452	1.500	1.500	1.000
General Insurance	300	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Al-Zahra Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahliya Insurance	1000	1200	1.250	1.200	1.000
Services and industries					
Danco for Housing and Investment	15029	8730	0.590	0.580	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqaro)	3920	1680	0.430	0.420	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	795	531	0.670	0.670	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	37059	9048	0.670	0.660	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance Ta'jeero	2280	999	0.920	0.900	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	7177	10994	1.570	1.520	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arabs International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	3000	2735	0.930	0.910	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Dar Al Shabab Press, Printing and Publishing	31400	14246	0.550	0.460	1.000
Jordan Dairy	13141	16052	1.250	1.190	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	18592	35915	1.930	1.940	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	82455	77356	0.980	0.900	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	2532	3990	1.950	1.990	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Inta)	1185	1719	1.450	1.440	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	230	1173	5.150	5.100	1.000
Aladdin Industries	2100	19803	0.960	0.950	1.000
Arab Aluminum Manufacturing	389340	720820	1.930	1.840	1.000
Jordan Worsted Mills	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	8602	8986	1.060	1.030	1.000
Chemical Industries	7088	7537	1.100	1.060	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	6900	3432	0.500	0.480	1.000
Dar Al Dawa for Development and Investment	12956	15427	1.200	1.200	1.000
National Steel Industries	114140	268315	2.490	2.220	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	650	588	0.880	0.920	1.000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	5691	40940	7.160	7.200	5.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	23400	6560	0.320	0.310	1.000
National Industries	2250	1454	0.670	0.610	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWCO)	—	—	—	—	1.00

Sri Lankan navy sinks rebel boat after chase

Army helicopters smash Tamil bases

COLOMBO (R) — A Sri Lankan naval patrol vessel sank a large rebel craft laden with munitions after a high-speed chase, the government said Saturday.

On land, four Tamil rebel bases were destroyed by helicopter gunships in the government's all-out war against separatist guerrillas.

Government spokesman Tilak Ratnayake said the navy patrol vessel spotted the large boat heading for the Sir Lankan coast from southern India Friday night.

The navy crew opened fire when the boat, equipped with four outboard engines, tried to escape.

Fire was returned from the boat during a two-mile chase in waters northeast of Jaffna.

Three crewmen who fled overboard from the fleeing craft were thought to have been killed by navy fire, Mr. Ratnayake said.

After another burst of firing from the navy patrol, the boat exploded and sank.

"It was obvious it was carrying a large amount of explosives," Mr. Ratnayake said.

He said detonator cords packed in plastic bags were found floating on the sea, and debris from the explosion also indicated the vessel had been carrying firearms and ammunition.

The air force continued its attacks in the rebel-controlled Jaffna area Friday, destroying

out terrorism.... before seeking a political solution to the ethnic problem."

At the same time National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told a press conference air strikes against separatist rebel positions in their northern Jaffna peninsula stronghold, would be continued "until we destroy all targets."

Mr. Athulathmudali said the government was not closing the door to peace negotiations but it was up to the rebels to take the initiative.

Mr. Premadasa, during a stormy debate in parliament on the state of emergency, said it was not the time to think of political settlements while people were being killed by the rebels.

"There should be a military solution first before anything else. Let the world, including India, think whatever they want," he added.

He called on New Delhi to expel Tamil rebels whom he claimed operated from Indian territory.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, said in a statement issued at their exile headquarters in southern India that probably more than 100 people, most of them civilians, were killed in Friday's raids, including those in a school of Jaffna.

Howe in New Zealand

WELLINGTON (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe arrived here Saturday ready to tell Labour Party Prime Minister David Lange that his anti-nuclear policy is a threat to New Zealand and to Western Security.

Officials travelling with Howe said he would call on the New Zealand leader to reverse a ban on ships carrying nuclear weapons.

The ban has stopped naval visits by Britain and the United States and has cut New Zealand off from its ANZUS defence treaty with Australia and the United States.

The U.S. has suspended defence cooperation with New Zealand because of the ban, which Mr. Lange implemented in 1985 in response to anti-nuclear sentiment that has been strengthened by France's refusal to halt nuclear weapons testing in the Pacific.

Mr. Howe said before he left Canberra for Wellington that he very much regretted that New Zealand had effectively opted out of ANZUS.

The word coup "has been erased from the military vocabulary," he said.

Mr. Alfonsin met with former U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale, three former Latin American presidents and other international figures who ended a seminar on constitutional reform Friday to thank them for their support during the crisis.

Argentine military chief rules out more coups

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Army Chief-of-Staff Gen. Jose D. Caridi toured four bases to install new corps commanders Friday and said the word "coup" had been erased from the military's vocabulary.

President Raul Alfonsin, meanwhile, thanked international leaders for the support given to his 40-month-old elected government during a crisis created by rebellion of army officers demanding amnesty for comrades accused of human-rights abuses.

Gen. Caridi, who took over last Monday in a reshuffle of the army's top officers following three failed garrison revolts, flew to the interior cities of Rosario,

15 charged in U.S. murder plots

WASHINGTON (R) — Fourteen alleged white supremacists were charged with conspiracy to overthrow the U.S. government and plotting to assassinate a judge and a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agent, the Justice Department announced.

Three of the defendants and a 15th person, Jean Margaret Craig, were also charged in connection with the machine gun killing of a Denver radio personality, Alan Berg, it said.

The indictments, returned by grand juries in Denver and Fort Smith, Arkansas, were announced by the Justice Department after the arrest of eight of the defendants by FBI agents.

The other seven already were serving sentences in federal prisons for previous convictions, it said.

The other six charged in the sedition plot were already in prison on other convictions, the Justice Department said.

Berg, who frequently used his radio show to attack the white supremacist movement and their leaders, was shot on June 18, 1984 as he got out of his car in front of his apartment.

The indictment charged that 10 defendants plotted to finance the

overthrow of the government from mid-1983 until early 1985 through armed robberies and counterfeiting.

It said the plot included killing members of ethnic groups by bombing, destroying utilities, polluting water supplies and establishing guerrilla warfare training camps.

All those charged were affiliated with white supremacy groups such as the Ku Klux Klan or the Aryan Nations, the department said.

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